



**National Governors Association Policy Academy
Aligning the Education and Training Pipeline to the Needs of the Economy**

Background

Every year, the Chair of the National Governors Association (NGA) establishes an initiative that serves as the primary focus of NGA's Center for Best Practices. Past initiatives have included Employing Individuals with Disabilities, Growing States Economies, and Complete to Compete. The most recent Chair of the NGA, Mary Fallin of Oklahoma, established the topic of America Works: Education and Training for Tomorrow's Jobs. As a part of this initiative, the NGA established a policy academy, where it invited states to submit applications to participate in a focused effort to create and implement a policy agenda to build and strengthen education and workforce training programs, promote stronger collaboration and information sharing between education and workforce/economic development agencies, and expand the state's public and private sector education and training capacity to meet its future workforce needs.

The Center for Education and Career Innovation (CECI) submitted an application to NGA to participate in the policy academy to build upon the goals and objectives the Indiana Career Council established as part of its strategic plan, "Align, Engage, Advance: A Strategic Plan to Transform Indiana's Workforce." As a result of the application, the NGA selected Indiana, among 14 states, to participate in the policy academy. Participation in the policy academy will allow a multi-agency team from Indiana to receive grants and learn from other states, and receive technical assistance from the NGA Center for Best Practices and outside experts.

Indiana's Initiative

Building upon the strategies and objectives found within the Career Council's strategic plan, CECI intends to utilize the policy academy as an opportunity to further enhance the alignment of Indiana's education, job skills development, and career training system, ensure that workers and businesses are able to access client-centered services, and that public funds are utilized towards demand driven, outcomes-oriented programs and investments.

To take full advantage of the policy academy, CECI has formed a cross-agency leadership team to lead the efforts of converting the strategies and objectives of the Career Council into actionable items and policy that will propel the state's system forward. The leadership team consists of the following members:

Jackie Dowd <i>Special Assistant to the Governor, CECI</i>	Nate Klinck <i>Career Council Director, CECI</i>
Shane Hatchett <i>Director of Research and Technology, CECI</i>	Eric Shields <i>Policy Director, IEDC</i>
Sarah Ancel <i>Associate Commissioner for Policy and Planning, CHE</i>	Marie Mackintosh, <i>Director of Adult Education, DWD Director of Works Councils, CECI</i>
Mike Barnes <i>Chief Compliance Officer, FSSA</i>	Gordon Hendry <i>State Board of Education Appointee</i>
Joe Loughrey <i>Business Representative, ICC (voting mem.)</i>	Scott Reske <i>Executive Director of Gov. Relations, IDOE</i>

The specific focus of the leadership team's work will consist of furthering the following objectives:

- Increase the number of students and adults who attain post-secondary certifications and degrees;
- Elevate the importance of work-and-learn models;
- Provide a seamless system of partners that provides worker-centric and student-centric services;
- Adopt a data-driven, sector-based approach that directly aligns education and training with the needs of Indiana's regional economies; and
- Link career pathways to Indiana's high wage, high demand careers for students and workers across the K-12, post-secondary, and adult systems.

Indiana's participation in the NGA Policy Academy will commence in September 2014 and continue through June of 2016